

AN ANNOTATED LIST OF THE HAWK MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES (LEPIDOPTERA) OF LIZARD ISLAND, QUEENSLAND

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Abstract

Records are provided for 19 species of hawk moths and 23 species of butterflies from Lizard Island, northern Queensland. Notes are given on abundance.

Introduction

The hawk moths and butterflies of Lizard Island are poorly documented compared with nearby Queensland coastal regions. Moulds (1985) recorded two species of *Macroglossum* Scopoli, *M. micaceum micaceum* (Walker) and *M. prometheus lineatum* (Lucas) from the island but D'Abrera (1987) did not list it as a specific locality for any Australian species. Duckworth and McLean (1986) listed 11 species of butterflies from the island.

Lizard Island (14°40'S, 145°28'E) lies approximately 27 km off the north Queensland coast, about 93 km NNE of Cooktown. It is a dry island with large areas of bare, exfoliating granite cliffs and hills. Around 60% of the island is covered by grassland. Eucalypt and acacia woodlands are found in some areas along with mangroves (3 species) fringing some beaches. Paperbarks and pandanus are found in an area behind Watsons Bay. The island is about 4 km long from north to south, about 3 km wide at its widest point and has an area of close to 10 km².

This survey was carried out between 30 November and 13 December 2002. Conditions were extremely dry and no rain of note had been recorded since the previous January. Fortunately, about 30 mm of rain fell on the first night of the survey but no further rain was recorded during the survey period.

All specimens are in the collection of RBL temporarily; duplicates are held by the Queensland Museum, Brisbane and the Australian National Insect Collection, CSIRO, Canberra.

Discussion

Eighteen species of hawk moths and 19 species of butterflies were collected during the survey. They are listed in Table 1, together with notes on abundance. The severe drought affecting Lizard Island clearly reduced the numbers of both groups, both in terms of species and general abundance. This appeared to be particularly the case with butterflies, with only well known species being encountered. The possible exception is *Taractrocera ina* Waterhouse, noted by Braby (2000) to have a sporadic distribution along the eastern coast of Cape York Peninsula. A return to normal rainfall patterns (approximately 1300 mm p.a.) should see an increase in both species and numbers of both groups.

Table 1. List of hawk moths and butterflies collected on Lizard Island. An asterisk (*) indicates a previously recorded species and a double asterisk (**) a previous record that was not repeated in late 2002.

Species	Notes
HAWK MOTHS (19 species)	
Sphingidae	
<i>Agrius convolvuli</i> (Linnaeus)	Abundant
<i>Leucomonia bethia</i> (Kirby)	Abundant on some nights
<i>Cephonodes janus janus</i> (Miskin)	One female
<i>Cephonodes picus</i> (Cramer)	One female
<i>Gnathothlibus erotus eras</i> (Boisduval)	Abundant
<i>Gnathothlibus</i> sp. [undescribed]	Two males
<i>Macroglossum corythus pylene</i> (C. Felder)	Two males
<i>Macroglossum hirundo errans</i> (Walker)	21 males, no females
<i>Macroglossum micaceum micaceum</i> (Walker) *	One female
<i>Macroglossum prometheus lineatum</i> (Lucas) **	Moulds 1985
<i>Macroglossum tenebrosum</i> (Lucas)	One female
<i>Hippotion celerio</i> (Linnaeus)	One male
<i>Hippotion velox</i> (Fabricius)	One male, three females
<i>Theretra clotho celata</i> (Butler)	Abundant
<i>Theretra indistincta</i> (Butler)	Very common
<i>Theretra inornata</i> (Walker)	Very common
<i>Theretra latreillii latreillii</i> (W.S. Macleay)	One male
<i>Theretra margarita</i> (Kirby)	One female
<i>Theretra silhetensis intersecta</i> (Butler)	Four males, two females
BUTTERFLIES (23 species)	
Hesperiidae	
<i>Taractrocera ina</i> Waterhouse	
<i>Telicota augias krefftii</i> (W.J. Macleay)	
<i>Cephrenes trichopepla</i> (Lower)	
Papilionidae	
<i>Papilo aegaeus aegaeus</i> Donovan	
<i>Papilo fuscus capaneus</i> Westwood	A common species
<i>Cressida cressida cressida</i> (Fabricius)	
Pieridae	
<i>Eurema hecabe hecabe</i> (Linnaeus) *	Common

<i>Elodina walkeri</i> Butler	Fairly common
<i>Belenois java teutonia</i> (Fabricius)	Dark form, common
<i>Cepora perimale scyllara</i> (W.S. Macleay)	
<i>Appias paulina ega</i> (Boisduval)	
Nymphalidae	
<i>Hypocysta adiante adiante</i> (Hübner) *	
<i>Hypolimnas bolina nerina</i> (Linnaeus) *	
<i>Tirumala hamata hamata</i> (W.S. Macleay) **	Duckworth & McLean 1986
<i>Danaus plexippus</i> (Linnaeus)	
<i>Euploea core corinna</i> (W.S. Macleay) *	
Lycaenidae	
<i>Arhopala centaurus centaurus</i> (Fabricius)	A very common species
<i>Hypolycaena phorbas phorbas</i> (Fabricius) *	A very common species
<i>Anthene seltuttus affinis</i> (Waterhouse & R. Turner) *	
<i>Candalides erinus erinus</i> (Fabricius) *	
<i>Theclinesthes</i> sp. **	Duckworth & McLean 1986
<i>Famegana alsulus alsulus</i> (Herrich-Schäffer) **	Duckworth & McLean 1986
<i>Euchryrops cnejus cnidus</i> Waterhouse & Lyell **	Duckworth & McLean 1986

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